

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 SIL-01 LAB-06 SS-20

SP-03 L-03 H-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:J.R.HAMILTON:GLG

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INS - J. GRAHAM

----- 123342

P 25,100Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESS TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT
PROBLEM

REF: MEXICO 5995

1. REF REQUESTED DEPT. TO CONSULT WITH IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE ON MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CORRECT-
ING STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED BY MEXICAN PRESS TO INS
COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN THAT THERE ARE "BETWEEN 11 AND 13.5
MILLION ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE US", AND TO CLARIFY
INS POLICY REGARDING PRESS INTERVIEWS WITH DETAINED
ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

2. INS HAS INFORMED DEPT. THAT COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN
HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS STATED THAT INS' BEST ESTIMATE
WAS THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN 6 AND 7 MILLION ILLEGAL IMMI-
GRANTS IN THE US. CHAPMAN HAS FURTHER STATED THAT THE
VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE APPREHENDED WERE MEXICAN NATIONALS.
CHAPMAN AT NO TIME HAS SAID THAT THERE ARE AS MANY AS
11 TO 13.5 MILLION ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE US AT THIS
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TIME. IN JULY 22 ISSUE OF US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, CHAPMAN HAD FOLLOWING EXCHANGE WITH INTERVIEWER WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN BASIS FOR MISQUOTATIONS:

"Q. HOW MANY ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE THERE ALL TOLD RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. THE ESTIMATES RANGE FROM 2 OR 3 MILLION UP TO 10 MILLION. MY BEST GUESS IS THAT IT'S ON THE ORDER OF 5, 6 OR 7 MILLION. BUT I HASTEN TO POINT OUT THAT THE NUMBER IS GROWING EVERY DAY. IF WE HAVE, LET'S SAY, 5 MILLION OR 6 MILLION TODAY, IN ANOTHER FEW YEARS IT WILL BE 10 MILLION, AND A SHORT TIME AFTER THAT IT WILL RISE TO 15 OR MORE MILLION."

3. INS OFFICIALS AND DEPT. BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY MIGHT, IF SUITABLE OCCASION ARISES OR IF ISSUE IS AGAIN RAISED, MAKE AN APPROPRIATE, CORRECTIVE STATEMENT.

4. WITH REGARD TO PRESS INTERVIEWS, INS GAVE US THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "IN LINE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE POLICY, AN ALIEN IN CUSTODY OF INS IS NOT PERMITTED TO BE INTERVIEWED EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT HIS CONSENT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS OR OTHER NEWS MEDIA. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE POLICY WAS RECENTLY UPHELD BY THE US SUPREME COURT IN SAXBE VS. THE WASHINGTON POST." INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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